

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01090 230742Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 EB-08 /075 W
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R 221633Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4030

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1090

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MASS, MPOL, PO, NATO, DA

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION

REFS: (A) COPENHAGEN 997 DTG 161616Z FEB 77, (B) COPENHAGEN 1063
DTG 181545Z FEB 77, (C) STATE 34978 DTG 160123Z FEB 77

1. CHIEF OF MFA'S POLMIL OFFICE, TORBEN FROST, TOLD POLCOUNS
FEBRUARY 22 THAT THE DANES HAVE ALREADY GIVEN SERIOUS CONSID-
ERATION TO REQUEST LISTS CIRCULATED IN NATO FOR CONTRIBUTIONS
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TO PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION. THE DANISH RESPONSE, WHICH
WAS TABLED IN BRUSSELS "SOME TIME AGO", ACCORDING TO FROST,
SAID THAT DENMARK WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE TO POR-
TUGAL'S MILITARY MATERIEL NEEDS. THIS CONCLUSION WAS REACHED
BY THE DANISH DEFENSE STAFF AND ENDORSED BY THE MINISTRIES
OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. IN THEIR RESPONSE, HOWEVER, THE DANES DID OFFER TRAINING FACILITIES HERE FOR PORTUGUESE MILITARY PERSONNEL OR THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING A FEW DANISH MILITARY INSTRUCTORS TO PORTUGAL. FROST SAID THAT NO PARTICULAR KIND OF TRAINING OR TRAINERS WAS MENTIONED BY THE DANES IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE PORTUGUESE AND NATO THE BROADEST POSSIBLE LATITUDE OF CHOICE. AS FAR AS FROST KNEW, THERE HAS BEEN NO REPLY TO THE DANISH OFFER. PERHAPS THERE WOULD BE ONE, HE SAID, AT THE MARCH AD HOC MEETING.

3. IN RESPONSE TO POLCOUNS QUESTION, FROST SAID THAT PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION WAS NOT DISCUSSED DURING SOARES' VISIT HERE (REF B). FROST VOLUNTEERED THAT THE WHOLE MATTER WAS RECENTLY REVIEWED BY FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN WHO REAFFIRMED THE DANISH POSITION ALREADY CONVEYED TO NATO. AS FAR AS FROST KNEW, THE PORTUGUESE HAVE MADE NO BILATERAL DEMARCHES ON THE QUESTION.

4. COMMENT. THE DANISH RESPONSE IS NOT SURPRISING, AND ON THE FACE OF IT, IT IS NOT APPARENT WHAT EQUIPMENT OF ANY VALUE THE DANES MIGHT MAKE AVAILABLE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SAME RESPONSE WAS MADE A FEW YEARS AGO BY THE DANES TO A SIMILAR REQUEST VIS A VIS TURKEY. IF THE US AND NATO AUTHORITIES WISH TO PURSUE THIS FURTHER, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR HERE MAKE A FORMAL DEMARCHE BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM LISBON. HIS DEMARCHE WOULD HAVE ADDED EFFECT IF HE WERE ARMED WITH A LIST OF MATERIEL LISBON OR USNATO BELIEVES THAT THE DANES MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO PASS ON TO THE PORTUGUESE.

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